

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/717,331

Applicant(s)

KATO ET AL.

Examiner

Jane Rhee

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/18/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons For Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art, Riemer et al. discloses an on board fuel cell powered electric vehicle (col. 2 line 7-8) comprising a fuel cell (figure 1b number 15), a humidification unit (figure 1b number 35), a fuel cell output setting unit (figure 1b number 14) wherein the fuel cell output setting unit is arranged to align in a transverse direction of the vehicle so as to constitute a first group (figure 1b number 14) and wherein the humidification unit (figure 1b number 35) is arranged to align in the transverse direction of the vehicle so as to constitute a second group, whereby the first group, the fuel cell and the second group are arranged to align in that order from a front to a rear of the vehicle (figure 1b). Riemer et al. fail to disclose a temperature-regulating unit in the first group which is aligned in transverse direction of the vehicle. Riemer et al. further fail to disclose wherein the first group, the fuel cell, and the second group and the exhaust unit are accommodated in the fuel cell system box disposed under a floor of the vehicle. Applicant teaches that the water pump, thermostat valve and the fuel cell output setting are arranged to align transversely in the first group which is disposed within the fuel cell system box at a longitudinal front part thereof, the longitudinal length of the first group can be decreased (spec page 23). Applicant further teaches that the first group, the fuel cell, and the second group and the exhaust unit are accommodated in the fuel cell system box disposed under a floor of the vehicle because the apparatuses including the fuel cell which are accommodated in the fuel cell system box can be protected from inputs from the outside such as water, mud and chipping and the like, and the serviceability of these

Art Unit: 1745

apparatuses for maintenance can also be improved (spec. page 8). Furthermore, the fuel cell system box disposed under the floor of the vehicle provides sufficient space in the passenger compartment (spec. page 23).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane Rhee whose telephone number is 571-272-1499. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/717,331

Page 4

Art Unit: 1745

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Rhee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized capital 'J'.

Jane Rhee
January 20, 2007